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AUTOBIOGRAPHY

— OF —

COL. AARON OGDEN,

OF ELIZABETHTOWN.

*An Original Document written by COL. AARON OGDEN
for his children.*

PATERSON, N. J. :

THE PRESS PRINTING AND PUBLISHING CO., 269 MAIN ST.

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AUTOBIOGRAPHY.¹

The subject of this memoir was born² on the 3d December, 1756, at Elizabeth Town in the then Colony of New Jersey, graduated at Princeton College in September 1773,³ is now one of the Trustees⁴ of that celebrated Seat of Science, and the first Vice President of the Alumni of Nassau Hall, of whom the President is James Madison, late President of the United States.

Having been nurtured in Whig principles, Mr. Ogden at a very early age enrolled himself in defence of the United Colonies, in the Militia of New Jersey; and in the Spring of the year 1777 received an appointment in the first New

¹ This autobiography was prepared by Col. Ogden about 1833, and was the basis of a biographical sketch published in "The National Portrait Gallery of Distinguished Americans, conducted by James B. Longacre, Philadelphia; and James Herring, New York," Vol. I., Philadelphia, New York and London, 1834. It is the tenth in order in the volume, and is accompanied by a fine steel engraving of a portrait of Ogden, painted and engraved by A. B. Durand. It is now reprinted from the original manuscript, carefully preserved by the family, and which has been strictly followed in the printing here. Notes and added facts have been given, in order to present a completer view of the life and character of the distinguished hero and statesman.

² Son of Robert Ogden and brother of Matthias Ogden and Robert Ogden, jun., of Elizabethtown.

³ After leaving College he became an assistant teacher in the school of Francis Barber, at Elizabethtown, remaining until the spring of 1777, when the school was broken up, and principal and assistant both entered the army.—*Princeton in the Eighteenth Century*, 168.

⁴ He was one of the Trustees of Princeton College from 1817 until his death, in 1839.

Jersey Regiment,¹ and continued in such service until the termination of the war, in the various grades of a Captain, Major of Brigade, Brigade Major and Inspector, and Aid de Camp.

After the termination of the war, he applied himself to the study of the law, and was admitted by the Supreme Court of New Jersey to the degrees successively of an Attorney, a Counsellor, and Serjeant at Law,² and by the Corporation of Nassau Hall at Princeton to the degree of Doctor of Laws.³

In the year 1799, and when in full practice at the Bar, he was appointed to the command of the eleventh regiment of the Army of the United States, and a Deputy Quarter Master General in that army; in which grades he served untill the army was disbanded, after which he resumed and continued in an extensive practice of the law untill the year 1812, when he was elected⁴ Governor of the State of New Jersey, and Commander in Chief of its Militia. During this time he was appointed⁵ a Major General in the Army of the United States *flagrante bello* with Great Britain, which last appointment he did not accept, on the sole ground, that under the circumstances, he thought he could be of more use in the command of the Militia of New Jersey, then threatened with an invasion, than he probably could be in the regular army, which reason was considered by the government as satisfactory.

¹ He was commissioned Paymaster, First Battalion, First Establishment, December 8, 1775; Paymaster, First Battalion, Second Establishment, "Jersey Troops," Continental Line, February 1, 1777; resigned as Paymaster, April 1, 1778; Captain-Lieutenant, First Regiment; Captain, ditto, to date February 2, 1779; Brigade Major and Inspector and Aid-de-Camp to Brigadier General William Maxwell, April 1, 1778; discharged at the close of the war.—*Stryker's Revolutionary Roster*, 69.

² He studied law with his older brother, Robert, at Elizabethtown; was licensed as an attorney at the September Term, 1784, and as a serjeant at the September Term, 1792. The roll of counsellors, 1780-92, is missing. The number of serjeants was limited to twelve.

³ In 1816.

⁴ By the Legislature, October 29, 1812. He held the office one year.

⁵ By President Madison, February 27, 1813, under an act of Congress of February 24, 1813, providing for the appointment of six Major Generals.

Governor Ogden has been for many years¹ President by annual election of the New Jersey State Society of Cincinnati, in which honorable rank General Elias Dayton and Governor Bloomfield were his Predecessors, and has been twice elected & is now President General of the General Society of Cincinnati, in which high rank his predecessors were General Washington, General Hamilton, General Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and Thomas Pinckney.²

In the Winter of 1775-1776, an expedition was formed under Colonel Lord Sterling,³ commanding the first New Jersey Regiment, to take a large Ship at Sea plying off Sandy Hook, while the *Asia*, Man of War, a British Ship of the line with large tender, were lying in the Bay and Harbor of New York.

This expedition was composed of a detachment from Lord Sterling's regiment lying at Perth Amboy, and a corps of Volunteers from Elizabeth Town, of whom Mr. Ogden was one. This expedition embarked in small craft, put to sea at night from Sandy Hook, under a strong North West wind, and soon after sun-rising descried the Ship they were in quest of, bore down upon her, laid themselves alongside, boarded & carried her; of these boarders Mr. Ogden was one. This Ship proved to be *The Blue Mountain Valley* of 300 Tons under the command of Captain Dempster, loaded with Coal, Porter and live stock for the British troops at Boston. In the afternoon the wind came in from the Southward, and the prize was safely brought in, and secured at Elizabeth Town Point.⁴

¹ From 1824 until his death In 1839. Elias Dayton was President, 1783-1808; and Joseph Bloomfield, 1808-24.

² He was Vice-President General, 1825-9; and President General, 1829-39. General Washington was President General, 1783-99; Alexander Hamilton, 1800-1804; Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, 1805-25; Thomas Pinckney, 1825-29.

³ William Alexander, of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, who claimed the title of Earl of Stirling. He was subsequently a Major General in the American Army.

⁴ A detailed account of this brilliant adventure, written by Robert Ogden, chairman of the Town Committee of Elizabethtown, dated February 10, 1776, was sent to Congress, and is published in American Archives, Fourth Series, Vol. IV, 987-9. Aaron Ogden is named as one of the men on the expedition. The document is reprinted in Hatfield's *Elizabeth*, 421-4.

On the 29th January, 1776, Congress passed the following resolve, to wit—that the alertness, activity and good conduct of Lord Sterling, and the forwardness and spirit of the gentlemen and others from Elizabeth Town who voluntarily assisted in taking the Blue Mountain Valley were laudable and exemplary.

On the 11th of September, 1777, the American Army consisting of about 18,000 men was posted near Chadsford¹ on the Brandywine with that river and a strong Abbatis in its front, and the enemy with as large a number was advancing from the head of Elk, apparently with an intent to cross the Brandywine at this ford and attack General Washington in his then position, but foreseeing that Sir William Howe, the Commander of the British Army, might turn to the right of the American Army, and cross a bridge² on the Brandywine higher up, near Birmingham meeting-house, General Washington had determined in this event, to pass his army over the Brandywine at Chadsworth,³ attack the troops, the heavy artillery and baggage of the enemy which might be left behind, and take post in the neighboring high hills of Maryland.

The first New Jersey regiment to which Mr. Ogden belonged was posted in advance with directions to cross the river, and commence the attack on receiving such order from the Commander-in-Chief to be given in case the enemy should make the expected movement. Col. Matthias Ogden, the brother of the subject of this memoir, commanded this regiment and impatient for this order, dispatched him to the Commander-in-Chief, to inform him

¹ Chad's Ford. There is now a bridge near the site of the old ford. Maps illustrating the Battle of Brandywine may be found in Lossing's *Field-Book of the Revolution*, II., 377; 2 Penn. Archives, X., 316; Sparks's *Washington*, V., 58; *Battles of the American Revolution*, by Henry B. Carrington, 381; *Stedman's American War*, Dublin, 1794.

² A ford is meant. There was no bridge across the Brandywine within several miles of Chad's Ford. Brinton's Ford was one mile above; Jones's two miles; Wister's (Shunk's), three miles.—*Carrington*, 367; *Lossing*, 377, and see the maps.

³ Chad's Ford.

that everything was ready, and waiting for the order to advance across the river.

General Washington was attended by his aides, and informed the bearer of this message that he was distracted by contrary intelligence, and he did not send the expected order.

It seems that Colonel Hamilton, who was one of General Washington's aids, had reconnoitred the enemy, & had informed the General that they were in full march up the river, on the other side of it toward his right, at the same time an express arrived from Major General Sullivan, who had been placed on the right for the express purpose of observing the movement of the enemy, that there were none on the road.

Col. Lewis Morris¹, one of the aids of General Sullivan, within a few years past, informed Mr. Ogden that the videts sent out by General Sullivan had spent their time in drinking at a tavern, and on their return reported that the enemy were not on that route. Upon which he wrote on a drum head, his dispatch to General Washington containing this contradictory intelligence.

By this skilful manœuvre Sir William Howe turned the right of the American Army, and compelled General Washington to change his front, & a defeat was the necessary consequence. Thus this battle, in all probability was lost and won by this contrary intelligence.

At the battle of Monmouth on the 27th June, 1778, Major Ogden was Brigade Major to the Jersey Brigade which composed a part of the advance of the Army under the command of Major General Lee. This advanced corps marched in two columns with the proper interval for forming a line of battle, but on approaching the enemy each

¹ Son of Lewis Morris, of New York, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence; great-great-grandson of Lewis Morris, Governor of New Jersey, 1738-47. He graduated from Princeton College in 1774.

column halted and retired simultaneously without having made any disposition for making or receiving an attack.

These two columns retired however in perfect order, and when met by the Commander-in-Chief, were directed by him to fall into the rear of the main body of his army.

At this time Major General Lord Sterling, to whom Major Ogden was well known, took him as an assistant aide-de-camp. He as such continued with his Lordship during the residue of the day, and the night succeeding in the line of the main body, during which time he was near the persons both of Lord Sterling and of the Commander-in-Chief, General Washington, and was the bearer of important orders from each of them.

The enemy advanced to a ravine, lying in front of the line of the American Army, when there ensued a heavy and destructive cannonade from each side for a long time; the enemy at length advanced over the ravine to the attack of our batteries in the line. On perceiving this the Commander-in-Chief enquired of Major Ogden whether his horse still held out, for the day was intensely hot, and on being answered in the affirmative, ordered him to reconnoitre a wood which lay at some distance to the left, with as much speed as possible, this was done accordingly, and upon his reporting to the Commander in-Chief, that the enemy had lately been in occupation of this wood, but had retired leaving many dead and many dying with heat, the Commander-in-Chief immediately said in a loud tone "We will advance in our turn," and gave his orders accordingly, and the consequence was that the British Soldiers were driven back by the points of American bayonets, which turned the fate of the day. The firing from each side soon after ceased, and both armies lay near each other on the ground they had respectively occupied. In the morning soon after daylight, Major Ogden was ordered by Lord Sterling to reconnoitre the position of the enemy in

front. On his way he was met and informed by two aid-de-camps of the Commander-in-Chief who had been beforehand that the whole body of the British Army had retreated during the preceding night. Of the action, the following notice was taken by Congress:

“Resolved unanimously that the thanks of Congress be given to General Washington for the activity with which he marched from the Camp at Valley Forge in pursuit of the enemy, for his distinguished exertions in forming the line of battle, and for his great good conduct in leading on the attack and gaining the important victory of Monmouth over the British Grand Army under the command of General Sir Henry Clinton in their march from Philadelphia to New York.”

“Resolved that General Washington be directed to signify the thanks of Congress to the gallant Officers and men, under his command, who distinguished themselves by their conduct and valour at the battle of Monmouth.”

In the Winter of 1778–1779, the Jersey Brigade of which Major Ogden was the Brigade Major were posted on the lines and cantons of Elizabeth Town in the immediate vicinity of the British Army, when an attempt to surprise this Brigade was made by an expedition from Long Island, and General Grey, called “No flint Grey,” on account of his having on a former occasion, surprised and put to the bayonet a part of General Wayne’s Brigade at [Paoli], near Philadelphia. Major Ogden was sleeping in the same room with General Maxwell who commanded the Brigade, when the field Officers of the day rode up to the General’s quarters, and informed him that one of the pickets had heard the rowing of many boats round Bergen Point, up Newark Bay. Major Ogden knowing there was no picket on the road leading from the salt meadows, lying on this Bay, volunteered his services to reconnoitre that road. On approaching the house next to the meadows, he

observed in it a light, & slackened the pace of his horse. The night was remarkably dark and he found himself without perceiving it among British soldiers, and within the reach of a British Sentinel who ordered him to dismount. Major Ogden, determined at all hazards to attempt to alarm the garrison, immediately wheeled and put spurs to his horse expecting a shot, but in this he was disappointed, and instead of a shot he received from another sentinel, a thrust with a bayonet into his Chest, below the short ribs. He had strength nevertheless to reach the garrison, about two miles distant, and give to it the alarm. On his return General Maxwell observed "that the pitcher that often goes down the well, will come up broken at last." However by frequent copious bleedings inflammation was prevented, and Major Ogden recovered from his wound, which had well nigh proved fatal to him.¹

In the Campaign of 1779, Major Ogden served as aid-de-camp to General Maxwell in the successful expedition of Major General Sullivan, against the hostile Indians,² in regard to which Congress took the following notice:

October 14, 1779. "Resolved that the thanks of Congress be given to his Excellency General Washington for directing, and to Major General Sullivan and the brave officers and soldiers under his command for effectually executing, an important expedition against such of the Indian nations as encouraged by the Councils, and conducted by the officers of his Britannic Majesty had perfidiously waged an unprovoked and cruel war against

¹ "While confined to his room [with this wound, which was very dangerous] he was frequently visited by the ladies of the town, acquainted with him from the days of his boyhood. One of the *outrages* of the place was, that upon the occasion of one of these visits, he received a wound from one of Cupid's shafts, deeper and more lasting than that inflicted by the enemy. This wound was healed [eight] years afterwards by a happy marriage with the author of it."—*Elmer's Reminiscences*, 141-2.

² Some notices of Capt. Ogden's services on this expedition will be found in a paper read before the New Jersey Historical Society, January 17, 1884, by Gen. William S. Stryker, on "General Maxwell's Brigade of the New Jersey Continental Line In the Expedition Against the Indians, in the Year 1779."

these United States, laid waste many of their defenceless towns, and with savage barbarity, slaughtered the inhabitants thereof."

After the resignation of General Maxwell,¹ Captain Ogden commanding a company in the Light Infantry under Major General the Marquis La Fayette received an order from the Commander-in-Chief to attend at Headquarters the next morning² at 8 o'clock precisely, when he was met by General Washington alone, at his tent door, who put into his hands a packet addressed to his Excellency Sir Henry Clinton Commander &c., of the British forces at New York, and at the same time directed him to carry it with a flag of truce, under an escort of twenty-five dragoons, to the next post of the enemy and deliver it into the hands of the commanding officer there, that he should get for himself the best horse he could obtain and call on the Marquis La Fayette for special instructions.

Major Andre of the British Army, who was known to be the particular friend and favorite of Sir Henry Clinton, had been taken up, tried, and condemned to death by a General Court Martial of American officers, and was then under sentence to be hanged as a spy.

General La Fayette's instructions to Captain Ogden were, that he should if possible, get within the British Post at Paulus Hook, and continue there during the night, and that he should privately assure the Commanding officer there, without taking him aside for the purpose, that he, Captain Ogden, was instructed to say, that if Sir Henry Clinton would in any way whatever suffer General Washington to get within his power General Arnold, then Major Andre should be immediately released.

¹ Resigned July 25, 1780.

² This must have been at Tappan, about September 30, 1780. Arnold's treason was discovered September 25; on September 28 Washington ordered a board of general officers to inquire into the case of Major Andre, who was tried and condemned the next day; the finding and sentence were approved by Washington on the 30th, and the unfortunate young man was hanged on October 2, 1780.

Captain Ogden so managed as to get into the post where he was politely offered accommodation for the night; no opportunity presented itself until supper, when he was seated next to the Commanding officer there, who on receiving the communication, immediately arose from the table, and returned in about two hours from the City of New York, being the headquarters of Sir Henry Clinton, with a laconic answer from him "that a deserter was never given up" and that my horse would be ready for my departure early the next morning.¹ Thus this benevolent experiment of General Washington in favor of the unfortunate Andre failed and this accomplished scholar and gentleman suffered an ignominious death, while the infamous Arnold was receiving the reward of his treachery to his General and his treason to his country.

Early in the year 1780² an expedition from New York consisting of 8,000 British and Hessian troops under the Hessian General Kniphausen made an irruption into New Jersey apparently with the design to attack General Washington while yet in his winter quarters at Morris Town with an army, consisting then of not more than six thousand effective men.³

At this time the Jersey Brigade consisting of about 1000 men under the command of General Maxwell to whom the subject of this memoir was aid-de-camp, was stationed on the line, two regiments of this Brigade, with General Maxwell lying a short distance west of Newark,

¹ Captain Ogden was accompanied by a sergeant, who was missing in the morning, having deserted to the enemy. All unknown to Ogden, this had been arranged by Washington, who had been given information that Gen. St. Clair was unworthy. The sergeant ascertained that the suspicions were unfounded, and returned in safety to the American army.

² June 6, 1780.

³ In his report to Lord Germain, Gov. Robertson, of New York, placed the number of the invading troops under Kniphausen at 6,000. He said the object was to surprise Maxwell's Brigade of Jersey Troops, and to get possession of the strong post at Short Hills, await there the arrival of reinforcements, and if circumstances proved favorable, to march directly with the whole against Washington, at Morristown.—*N. Y. Col. Docs.*, VIII., 793.

and the other two regiments of this Brigade at Elizabeth Town under the Command of General Elias Dayton with a distance between them of about five miles.

The enemy landed about mid-night¹ at Elizabeth Town Point about Eighteen miles from Morris Town, and advanced unobserved, till it fell in with a picket guard, by whose fire, the thigh of General Sterling of the British Army who led the advance, was broken, which delayed the further advance of this expedition for a very considerable time.²

Major Ogden lying on the ground on his blanket, in his tent, heard this firing and immediately volunteered his services to General Maxwell to ascertain the cause of it; and rode as fast as his horse could carry him, to the other two regiments of the brigade whom he found paraded on the hill in the rear of Elizabeth Town river, and there received information from General Dayton³ that the enemy were out in force, that Morris Town was the place of their destination, that he was momentarily expecting their advance.

General Dayton and Major Ogden concluded that it would be advisable for the whole brigade to form a junction at Connecticut farms, being about an equal distance from each of the separate parts of the brigade. This was done accordingly, and the whole brigade before the advance of the enemy so far, was posted behind a ravine near Wade Tan yard.

At sunrise the enemy was seen in full march on the road to Morris Town and their further advance was then checked

¹ June 6.

² "As the enemy came marching forward, at the break of day, Brig. Gen. Stirling at the head of his division, the guards, at the forks of the road [at the eastern terminus of the present Elizabeth avenue, in the City of Elizabeth], allowed them to approach within musket shot, when they fired, and fled to town. One of the balls unhorsed Stirling, and fractured his thigh. The whole column was thus brought to a halt, until the wounded General could be cared for."—*Hatfield's Elizabeth*, 487-8. General Stirling died of his wound a year later.

³ Col. Elias Dayton, of Elizabethtown, who commanded the Jersey Brigade after the resignation of Gen. Maxwell; commissioned Brigadier General Continental Army, January 7, 1783.

by the Jersey brigade in a sharp action of more than an hour, and untill its left was turned by the enemy on another road when the brigade was obliged to retire to Springfield a distance of about three miles, which it did in perfect order, and without the least precipitation.

The brigade then was posted behind the river near Springfield, having left standing the Bridge over which it had passed. The enemy advanced as far as the river and Bridge, but no further on that day.¹

By this time the inhabitants had received the alarm, the militia in small bodies, were beginning to join the Brigade, and the special direction of them was committed to Major Ogden, who by his conduct during the day had acquired the confidence of his General by having twice saved his Brigade from ruin and defeat.²

The subject of this memoir was a Captain of a company of the Light Infantry of General the Marquis de Lafayette in his memorable campaign in Virginia in 1781, which after the arrival of General Washington from the northward, terminated in the capture of York town, of Lord Cornwallis, and his whole army, after which there was no more actual fighting between the hostile parties.

Early in this Campaign General De Lafayette formed a legionary corps of horse & foot commanded by Major McPherson, the foot was composed of one Company selected from each of his three regiments of Light Infantry.³

¹ Being thus checked, the enemy gave themselves up to plunder and raptue; the Presbyterian Church at Connecticut Farms was burned down, and several of the dwelling houses. It was at this time, too, that the wife of the Rev. James Caldwell, of Elizabethtown, was shot dead by a British soldier, as she sat near an upper window in the parsonage, with her babe at her breast. Mr. Caldwell had rented the parsonage temporarily as a safer residence than his own in the town.

² At ten o'clock that night, in the midst of a drenching rain, the British Army silently stole back to the Sound, and the next day most of them crossed to Staten Island. Two weeks later, on June 23, the British renewed their attempt to reach Morristown, but were badly beaten at Springfield, and again compelled to retreat, with heavy loss.

³ Captain Ogden commanded these three companies. See his own note at the end of this autobiography.

These were all picked men, and always lay between the two armies, and so particularly exposed to a surprise, which although frequently attempted was never effected, and to guard against which required the greatest vigilance.

During this Campaign and before the arrival of General Washington Lord Cornwallis made an attempt to "catch the boy" as he used to call the Marquis de Lafayette by inducing him to believe that he was crossing his whole army from the north to the south side of James river, and made a demonstration accordingly. General La Fayette discovered this feint but just in time to save himself, after marching to attack the rear of the enemy as he supposed.

He however ordered an attack on the left of the front of the enemy, and Captain Ogden was ordered with the infantry of this legionary corps and a body of militia, to march to the left and cover the retreat of the main body, which retreat at the same time was ordered by the General.

After marching some distance as directed Captain Ogden discovered the right wing of the British Army advancing rapidly to turn the left of our army, when in order to conceal the comparative weakness of his force, he threw his men into a neighboring wood and posted them behind a surrounding fence.

This caused the enemy to halt & reconnoitre, and form their line of attack, which marched up to charge into the woods, in this however they were checked by a galling fire from our men behind the fence, by which the right wing of the enemy was retarded untill the firing on the left had entirely ceased, when Captain Ogden drew off his men, and fell into the rear of our main body and so covered its retreat.¹

¹ Captain Ogden modestly omits to relate his gallantry in one of the most brilliant events of the siege of Yorktown. On the night of October 14, 1781, an attack was ordered on two redoubts of the British, and to excite a spirit of emulation, the reduction of one was entrusted to the Americans, under Lafayette, and of the other to the French, under the Baron De Viomnill. The advanced corps of the Americans was

NOTE.—General La Fayette in his visit to the United States in a letter to the then Secretary at War, makes honorable mention of Captain Ogden, and of his valuable military services in the war of the revolution & particularly when serving under him, in his campaign in Virginia, of which Mr. _____ has a copy, if Colonel Ogden recollects right.

NOTE.—In the year 1800¹ he was appointed by the Legislature of New Jersey to be one of the electors of the President and Vice President of the United States, & afterwards one of the Commissioners on the part of New Jersey for definitely settling the disputed boundary between her & the State of New York.²

NOTE.—In the year 1801 he was appointed one of the Senators of the State of New Jersey in the Congress of the United States, and served as such in the years 1801–1802 & 1803.³

NOTE.—These three companies of infantry were commanded by Captain Ogden, being the eldest Captain.⁴

under Col. Alexander Hamilton. At a given signal the latter corps dashed forward, the van being led by Captain Ogden, the men leaping over all obstructions and into the enemy's redoubt with such irresistible *elan* as to completely overwhelm all opposition, and capture the redoubt and its astonished garrison. Ogden received a contusion from a cannon ball in the fight.

¹ An error; he was appointed in November, 1795.

² By an act passed November 21, 1806, the Legislature appointed as such commissioners, Aaron Ogden, William S. Pennington, James Parker, Lewis Condict and Alexander C. Macwhorter. Col. Ogden was not one of the commissioners appointed under the act of 1824 or in 1833.

³ He was appointed February 28, 1801, to fill the unexpired term (two years) of James Schureman, resigned.

⁴ Referring to the legionary corps of infantry mentioned on page 14.

ADDENDA.

In 1802 the Legislature of New Jersey was equally divided between the Republican and Federalist parties. On the first ballot for Governor, Joseph Bloomfield received the twenty-six Republican votes, and the twenty-six Federalist votes were cast for Richard Stockton. On the second ballot the vote was the same. On the third ballot the Federalist votes were given to Aaron Ogden. There was no choice, and the State went without a Governor for a whole year.

Col Ogden built a steamboat, the "Sea Horse," in 1811, to ply between Elizabethtown and New York. Before it was completed, the New York Legislature passed an act, April 9, 1811, authorizing John R. and Robert J. Livingston to seize any steamboat infringing on the monopoly given in 1803 and 1808 by the New York Legislature to Chancellor Livingston and Robert Fulton. In 1813 the New Jersey Legislature gave to Aaron Ogden and Daniel Dod, and their successors, the exclusive right to run steamboats in the waters of this State. The Livingstons appealed to the next Legislature for the repeal of this act. There was a great contest, and a brilliant debate between counsel, but the act was repealed in 1815. The doughty Colonel then tried to get the New York Legislature to repeal their monopoly, and in an argument before them made the first attempt to prove that the statute granting to Robert Fulton a monopoly of steamboat navigation on all the waters of that State was contrary to the constitution of the United States. His repealer passed the Assembly, but was lost in the Senate by one vote. He was thus obliged to make terms with the Livingstons, of whom he bought for ten years the exclusive right to run steamboats between Elizabethtown and New York. Thomas Gibbons, a wealthy planter of Savannah, Ga., who spent the summers in a handsome country seat at Elizabethtown, and who had been a partner with Ogden in a ferry lease, set up a rival steamboat route to New York. Ogden got an injunction against him from the Chancellor of New York, 1817. The case was contested with great stubbornness through the Courts, until at the February Term, 1824, the Supreme Court of the United States decided that no State could grant a monopoly of navigation. The long fight ruined Ogden.

In October, 1787, he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Chetwood, of his native town. She died September 27, 1826, having borne him:

1. Mary Chetwood, b. 1789; m. George Clinton Barber; d. March 23, 1863, aged 74 years.
2. Phæbe Ann, b. 1790; d. November 30, 1865, aged 74 years.

3. Matthias, b. 1792 ; m. Lucille Roberts ; d. July 17, 1860, aged 68 years.

4. John Robert, b. 1791 ; d. January 22, 1845, aged 51 years.

5. E. B. Dayton, b. 1797 ; d. August 8, 1799, aged two years.

6. Elias Bondinot Dayton, b. May 22, 1800 ; m. 1st Susan, dan. of the Rev. Frederick Beasley ; m. 2d Louisa, dan. of Judge Ford ; m. 3d Alice, dan. of Capt. W. Chetwood De Hart, U. S. A. ; Justice of the Supreme Court of New Jersey, 1848-65 ; d. February 24, 1865. Mrs. Alice Ogden d. Oct. 27, 1891.

7. Aaron, b. 1803 ; d. October 5, 1803, aged six months.

In 1785 the Legislature appointed him Clerk of the county of Essex, which office he held for many years. On December 1, 1801, the Legislature passed an act providing that if any person holding an office under the State had been elected to the U. S. Senate or House of Representatives, the commission under the State should be considered vacant, unless he should resign his seat in Congress within twenty days after the passage of the act. Col. Ogden declined to resign, and the Legislature elected Jacob Parkhurst County Clerk, who took possession of the office. A legal contest ensued, which ended in favor of Parkhurst.—*Elmer's Reminiscences*, 150.

In 1811 Col. Ogden was appointed Assistant Collector at Jersey City, which in 1829 became a port of entry, whereupon he took up his residence there. During the ensuing winter he was arrested for debt in the city of New York, and imprisoned for two or three months, declining the offers of friends to settle the claims against him. This proceeding led the New York Legislature to enact a law prohibiting the imprisonment of a Revolutionary soldier, which effected Col. Ogden's immediate discharge. Col. Aaron Burr is said to have been actively instrumental in securing the passage of this act.

He died at Jersey City, April 19, 1839, in his eighty-third year, and was buried on April 22, with great civic honors, in the First Presbyterian churchyard at Elizabeth.

Judge Elmer, who knew Gov. Ogden well, says of him : " He had a good practice as a lawyer ; and whatever may have been his own reflections on the subject, I think, in view of what afterwards befell him, it is to be regretted that he did not adhere to that profession during his life. He was an accomplished lawyer, and took a high position at the bar. He was much employed in the most important cases argued before the Supreme Court. * * His manner was graceful and impressive ; his voice, though not musical, was strong and varied ; his countenance had great power and diversity of expression ; but more than all this, he understood well the springs of human action. He was an enthusiastic admirer, and might almost be called a pupil of Shakespeare, whose works he was never weary of perusing. He was an ardent admirer of the ancient classical authors ; and his conversation with literary friends was frequently embellished by ready and felicitous quotations from their works. He was one of the many proofs of the great advantage a stud-

ent derives from becoming an instructor of others. His critical knowledge and accurate recollection of the classics he always attributed principally to that cause. The taste never forsook him, and often led him back, during the busiest part of his life, to the fountain at which he had drunk with so much pleasure in his early years. I well recollect, that the first time I saw him at a Fourth of July dinner of the Cincinnati, in 1812, he questioned the elegance of the Society's motto,¹ insisting that although perhaps good Latin as it stood, it should have been *omnia reliquit ad servandum rempublicum*."

In a "Honoriad," by John Stuart, of the Class of 1819, Princeton, is the following passage :

"HOFFMAN, RUTGERS, VAN ARSDALEN AND OGDEN."

"Hoffman with Jerseymen I name

"Because his spirit is the same

"Rutgers in his great toe was lamed

"Van Arsdalen always looked ashamed

"And Ogden's recitative tone

"Mix'd raven's croak with bag pipes' drone."

SOME UNPUBLISHED AUTOGRAPH LETTERS.²

I.

Elizabeth Town July 24th 1785

Honored Sir

I take the opportunity by Cousin Matt. Ogden³ of informing you that Mama is exceeding well and in good spirits, she says, that she expects to go to Sussex with Robert when he shall have returned from Long Island where he has gone with his family. This will probably be towards the end of the present week, and some time next week may bring them to Sparta.

Col. Ogden⁴ has had a turn of the Astma which now confines him, but he is getting better and his son Frank⁵ had the misfortune a few days ago to

¹ *Omnia reliquit servare rempublicam*—so printed in the records of the New Jersey Society; the General Society Minutes now print the second word *relinquit*. Gov. Ogden's amendment has been approved by scholars.

² The first of these letters is from the collection of Edmund D. Halsey; the others are from the collection of William Nelson.

³ Matthias Ogden, b. 1742; d. 1818; son of Samuel Ogden and second cousin of Col. Aaron Ogden.

⁴ Matthias Ogden, brother of Col. Aaron Ogden.

⁵ Francis Barber Ogden, afterwards U. S. Consul at Liverpool.

break his collar bone, of which he is almost recovered. Our friends and connections are otherwise well—With respect to news I know of none worthy of your Attention. Doctor Chandler¹ arrived little better than a week ago from England—he is well excepting the humour in his nose which is almost consumed—Doctor Birnet, David Lyon and some others, who were *peaceable* and *abhorred* bloodshed during the war, now that the danger is over, come forward and *talk of killing*, but rely upon it they are not encouraged by any *brave* or *good* men and I do not think that there will be any disturbance on this occasion. My best love to Hannah and Elias² time will not permit me to write to either of them.

I am Sir

Your Affectionate Son

AARON OGDEN.

[Addressed :]

Robert Ogden Esq

Sparta

II.

Eliz. Town Nov. 4th 1795

My Dear Sir.

I have just returned home after an absence of a fortnight at Sussex & Hunterdon's Circuit Courts—when I found your favor of the 16th Ultimo—it had been impracticable on account of the Epidemic³ in New York for me to procure the bill in your favor—all my correspondents were in the Country—I have written to a friend to procure one, & as yet have no answer, but expect a favorable one hourly—as soon as it comes to hand, it shall be forwarded by the post—

I am sorry that the ballance has not yet come to hand the Sheriff who had the execution against Camp, is now in our Legislature, & has not as yet settled this execution, altho he had expected to do it.

Your bill therefore will only be for seven hundred Dollars, which is as near as I can estimate the amount in my hands—My uncertainty of the precise sum arises from my having bought some articles at Cox vendue which amount I have not, but have receipted for the sum to Camp.

I lament much the great trouble & disappointment you receive on this business—However believe me to be yours most sincerely & faithfully

AARON OGDEN.

P. S. When my next is received, you will find when the cause in the attachment is like to be decided. I do not think that you need be at the trou-

¹ The Rev. Thomas Bradbury Chandler, Rector of St. John's Church, Elizabethtown, from 1747 until 1775. He took sides with the British, and was compelled to leave the country. On his return after the war harsh measures were proposed, but were not carried out. The "humour in his nose" was a cancer, which ended his life, 1790.

² Sister and brother of Aaron.

³ The yellow fever.

ble of a journey on the business—& when we meet, I shall be more able to explain the business.

[Addressed:]

Mr. Thomas Gondsley,

Boston.

III.

New York Deer. 12 1798.

Dear Dayton.

At the moment of the receipt of yours of the 8th instant, I set out for this place in a sleigh, with an intent to have returned on the same day. Circumstances have detained me here untill now—in the meantime I have been revolving in my mind the subject which you proposed for my consideration—

However flattering, it might be, to be at the head, of a corps so respectable as that of the Artillery, yet, upon the whole nothing has occurred to me, (and I presume also, nothing has occurred to you, or you would have mentioned it) which seem sufficient to overcome the objections which presented themselves, when we conversed upon this subject in consequence of a hint thrown out, by Capt. Ford¹ of the Artillery—

My views do not, at present, extend, beyond the termination of those commotions, which may arise from the injudicious and malignant policy, which has been adopted by France and her partisans, towards this Country, they do not extend to any permanent military appointment—

Mr. Stockton² and yourself are so perfectly acquainted with me, and the only motives, which I have in regard to this whole business; that I commit myself, entirely to your disposals, and shall find myself happy in rendering any service to my country, in such capacity as you may judge it proper, for me to accept. —

I am with great affection—yours as ever

AARON OGDEN.

[Addressed:]

The honorable

Jonathan Dayton Esquire

Speaker &c.

Philadelphia

¹ Doubtless Capt. Mahlon Ford, who married Sophia Spencer, daughter of Col. Oliver Spencer and Anna Ogden, his wife, sister of Gov. Aaron Ogden. He was a son of John Ford, who was a son of Col. Jacob Ford, senior, of Morristown.

² Richard Stockton (second), U. S. Senator from New Jersey, 12 November, 1796, to 3 March, 1799. Mr. Dayton was Speaker of the House of Representatives at this time.

IV.

Eliz. Town Aug. 20 1800.

Gentlemen.

Mr. Elias Hains,¹ of your city, has delivered us the account of the Corporation of New-York against us, for wharfage, for five boats, for three years, at five dollars per annum, for each boat, amounting to seventy five dollars.

It is not understood by us upon what principle this demand is made, in case of *these*, rather, than in that of *other* freight boats, to which no particular or exclusive privilege has been given—In facilitating intercourse and, consequently, business with your city from New-Jersey and in transporting daily great quantities of produce and merchandize, they have become useful to the citizens, and would make themselves welcome at any wharf, and ought not therefore as it should seem be compelled to pay any tax or contributions, unless some particular exclusive right, or extraordinary privilege should be granted to them. For such a grant or privilege we are willing to stipulate and pay, and with this view we pray the attention of the Corporation to a proposal, lately made to them by Col. Craue, who has a lease upon the boats, at the present, or to such other as may be made by Mr. Hains or Mr. Jon. H. Lawrence in our behalf, who are authorized to treat for us in this respect.

We entertain a hope, that by way of mutual benefit and accommodation as also for the convenience of such as make use of this means of intercourse with your city, a permission may be granted at our expense, to make a wharf or pier from the Easternmost point of the Battery, under such regulations as may be prescribed, and that in consideration thereof, we may have a lease for the same, for a term of years, with a power of renewal at a stipulated rent—This, it can be shown, may be done, not only without injury, but with advantage to the slip, in particular, & to the navigation round the battery, in general

We are gentlemen,

With great respect

Your most ob. servts.

Jona. Dayton & Aaron Ogden.²

To the honorable the Mayor

& Corporation of the City of New York.

¹ Elias Hains or Haines was a native of Elizabethtown; he was a merchant in New York. His monument (in the First Presbyterian church yard, Elizabeth) says "Benevolence, energy, and enterprize, characterized his life." He died 11 October, 1824, in the 58th year of his age. He was the father of Daniel Haines, Governor of New Jersey, 1843-4. 1848-51, Justice of the Supreme Court, 1852-56.

² The whole document is in the handwriting of Ogden; so are both the signatures.

V.

Elizabeth Town Dec. 6th 1800.

Dear Dayton.

I have received your favor of the 28th Ultimo, with the enclosure—what effect Mr. Hamilton's¹ pamphlet may have upon the Electors in the South, may be problematical, but it can have no possible influence, in this quarter, the one way or the other.

Col. Rhea² will have been with you with the unanimous votes of our Electors for Adams & Pinckney, & will have informed you of all the news, relative to our State politics. The electioneering campaign³ has just opened, and will doubtless be prosecuted with vigor by both parties—As yet, there are no symptoms of any violent opposition to the federal Ticket in our town—Benjn Wynans⁴ is zealous on our side, but I have some reason to be dubious in regard to Aaron Wynans, from the obliquity of his temper, if a line from you on the subject would reach him before the election, which commences on the 23d instant, it would be very useful, either to encrease his zeal if he shall have taken his side, with us, or moderate him, if it should happen, to be otherwise.

I was in New York on Friday, Saturday and Sunday last, relative to your answer and in order to effect a compromise with Marston, as the agent of your father & brother,—Col. Burr proposes to draw anew your answer, and is fully possessed of our ideas of the subject, and says, they furnish, in his mind, an impregnable ground of defence—Mr. Marston unfortunately, was confined in the Country by a fall—but Col. Burr promises to endeavour to effect an arrangement, upon the basis of our offer, to give security, upon 4 or 5 years time, being given—to this the only impediment, as appears from Mr. Smith the attorney of Mr. Marston, is that, the security will be required from the city, if you can devise some plan to obviate this, there can be no doubt, of effecting the wishes of Mr. Lawrence & yourself in this business.

Every aid in my power, to assist in bringing to an end, this business, will always be ready. I wish most heartily to see it closed.

1 "Letter from Alexander Hamilton, Concerning the Public Conduct and Character of John Adams, Esq. President of the United States. New York: Printed for John Lang, by George F. Hopkins. 1800. Copy right Secured." An 8vo. pamphlet of 54 pages, written by Hamilton with the hope of securing for Charles Cotesworth Pinckney a majority over John Adams. In the pending Presidential contest. It was believed that if South Carolina would give her votes to Adams and Pinckney the Federalist ticket would be successful. The letter was a most unwise attack, though under bitter provocation, by the ablest Federalist in the country upon the Federalist President, who was a candidate for re-election.

2 Clerk of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. 1793-1807; for many years one of the most influential politicians in the State. He was Lieutenant in the New Jersey troops during the Revolution.

3 For the election of members of the Legislature.

4 An Elder in Parson Caldwell's church at Elizabethtown, and Captain in the Revolutionary army.

I enclose the within, to remind you of an application made by us, in favor of Lieutenant Piatt¹—the terms of it prove, the manner in which our recommendation was received—the war-office being burnt Mr. Piatt wishes his recommendation renewed, will you, therefore have the goodness, of being at the trouble of shewing or delivering Mr. Stoddard's letter to the present Secretary of War, and of recommending Mr. Piatt for an appointment, either in the Artillery or Infantry—he will in my opinion be a great acquisition to the service, and both on his own and his father's account, deserves great consideration.

Your brother has arrived and is very well, as is your family who are at home, Mrs. Dayton is in New York.

I am with the most sincere affection

Yours, &c.

AARON OGDEN

[Addressed :]

The honorable

Jonathan Dayton

Senate Chamber

City of Washington.

VI.

Washington Jan'y 31. 1802

My dearest Betsey.

This day, being Sunday, is here the most pleasant and charming last of January, that I have ever experienced—if it be not so with you, the climate here, is to be preferred to ours at Elizabeth-Town. Phebe's² letter received yesterday, was the first, I have had since I left home, and let me repeat that I should be exceedingly glad, if it could be so arranged, that some one of the family should each day write me, in respect to the health and welfare of the family, and as to anything else, as it may please the one who writes—the Children may exercise their ingenuity in communicating this information, always, in a *different* manner, by which, they will learn how many different ways there are of communicating the same thing—they must write me, in as good a hand, as they can, and the whole letter free from blots, and for very correct letters, I shall be satisfied if they write only a few lines; in this way they will improve themselves, and by degrees, learn to write longer letters—I hope you will get into your habits which you begun to have when

¹ Probably a son of Daniel Piatt, who was a Captain in the same regiment with Aaron Ogden.

² His daughter.

I returned home, that of writing to me, some, every evening, and when it shall become large enough for a letter that you send it off.

I am most affectionately your's

AARON OGDEN.

[Addressed:]

Mrs. Aaron Ogden

Elizabeth Town

New-Jersey

VII.

Eliz. Town Nov 25. 1804.

Dear Dayton.

Yours of the 22d has been just received, I have not time to say more than a word or two, being this moment about to set out for Sussex Court—The Governor,¹ (as was predicted) appointed not one of his nominations to us—he consulted Mr. Kitchell² before he signed the Commission, however he took but one of Mr. K. nominations to him which was backed also (*inter nos*) by the whole representation of Essex, Sussex & Morris—to this one (Mr. Rolstin) of Morris, he added after much conference Genl. Cummings³ & Col Manning—The Inspectors veiwed the road⁴ & signed the certificate with much cheerfulness, whereupon the Governor signed the License—The Gates will be fixed for the present, near Bottle hill;⁵ in Chatham on this side the bridge by the tavern; and at Major Clarks—the two latter have been in operation about 3 days and present appearances are favorable—As to rate of toll there appears at present some variety in opinion—pray write me your opinion—it strikes me that the Gate near the Short hills should pay more than the upper or lower gates, as that part of the road cost us near double the sum, that the other parts of the road did—besides the benefit is almost twice as great to the traveller as he will not have it in his power to shun it, without very great difficulty & inconvenience—We have made a temporary arrangement as follows—At the upper & lower gates, for a carriage by 1 horse 5 Cents—2. horses 7—4 horses 14. at the middle gate 1 horse 6 Cents—2 horses 10. 4 horses 20 Cents. the toll for the single horse appears to me too high—4 Cents perhaps would be better for 1 horse—& perhaps 6 Cents for two horses—we are now making a beginning—besides

¹ Joseph Bloomfield, Governor 1803-12.

² Probably Aaron Kitchell, of Morris county, member of Congress, 1791-3. 1794-7.

³ John N. Cumming, of Newark, a Colonel in the Revolution.

⁴ The Morris Turnpike, built under an act of the Legislature passed 9 March, 1801, entitled "An Act for the facilitating the communication from Elizabeth-Town, in the County of Essex, through Morris Town, in the County of Morris, and from thence into Sussex." amended by an act passed 10 November, 1803.

⁵ Now Madison, Morris county.

we cannot exactly say, what effect the winter will have on the road, altho at present it is very fine.—

I have written to Coll Burr on Saturday & yesterday—I rode to Hacking-sack the moment I returned from Trenton, to get certain information—I am sorry to find that nothing can be made out in regard to the precept, but the panel which perhaps is more material appears to be vicious, having but 23 instead of 24 names, and not being signed by the Sheriff.¹

A letter such as you mention would have a very good effect, *presuming that the power is in the Governor*, altho it does not rest there, but with the Atty. Genl.²—he altho a man of most excellent disposition, would not enter a *noli pros*: without leave of the Court—if however sentiment can be excited favorable to such a measure among members of the Legislature, it will very much smoothe the way for the application whenever it can be made—When I return I will write you again

Yours as ever

AARON OGDEN.

[Addressed :]

The honorable
Jonathan Dayton
Senate Chamber
Washington-City.

¹ This and the next paragraph refer to the indictment found in Bergen county, New Jersey, against Colonel Aaron Burr for killing Alexander Hamilton in the duel at Weehawken, 11 July, 1804. On returning to Washington from a long trip South, whither he had gone to evade the storm of execration which assailed him after the duel, Burr wrote to his daughter Theodosia, 5 November, 1804: "I arrived last evening. You will have received my two letters of the 30th ult. and 1st instant, communicating, among other things, some information which I received on the road respecting the feelings in Bergen county, New Jersey. Since that a grand jury has been empanelled, who have found an indictment of murder. The witness, Parson Mason. The presiding judge, Bondnot, one of the most vehement of vehement federalists." "Parson Mason" was the Rev. John M. Mason, of New York, who attended Hamilton in his dying hours. The Judge was Elisha Bondnot, of Newark, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Under date of 15 December, 1804 Burr writes again; "Biddle and Dallas have written a joint letter to Governor Bloomfield, of New Jersey, urging a *noli pros*, in the case of the Vice President. Dallas has, throughout this business, behaved with an independence, and open, active zeal which I could not have expected, and to which I had no personal claim. The leading Republican members of the United States Senate have addressed a similar joint letter to the Governor. Many individuals of the same sect co-operate in the measure, and have expressed their opinions by letter and in conversation." *Davis's Memoirs of Aaron Burr*, II, 349, 353. The indictment was never pressed.

² Aaron D. Woodruff, Attorney General 1792-1811.

VIII.

Eliz'th Town, Octo 30th 1807.

My dear Sir

I have to beg ten thousand pardons, for having omitted untill now, an answer to your very flattering letter of the 14th instant—I gave it to my son for his perusal, who did not return it, whereby it did not get on the file of unanswered letters, and so amidst a thousand avocations, it escaped attention—You who know me, & my entire respect for you, will not, I trust, hesitate to excuse me, in this particular, for this seeming inattention.

On account of the youth of my son,¹ I had concluded not to send him to Princeton untill the next autumn, and then to enter the junior Class, otherwise I should, with very great pleasure indeed, have availed myself, of your very obliging and polite offer—Such intimacies and friendships as are formed, at Colledge, are certainly, known, most generally, to exist and last throughout life—and in this consideration, I exceedingly lament, that this opportunity may be lost to my son, of making thus early, an intimacy & friendship so close, as that of room-mate, with one,² for whom, & whose father I have such high respect, and from which there is such good promise of mutual benefit.

Accept Dear Sir my most sincere thanks for this mark of attention & friendship for myself & son and Believe me always to be with the greatest truth,

Your's most sincerely & respectfully

AARON OGDEN.

[Addressed :]

William Coxe Esquire
Burlington
New-Jersey.

¹ Matthias Ogden, b. 1792; d. 17 July 1860. He graduated from Princeton in 1810; entered the Philosophic Society in 1808; in 1818 m. Lucille Roberts, of Jamaica, W. I.; they had five children, all daughters.

² William Coxe, of Burlington, a grandson of Col. Daniel Coxe, of Burlington and afterwards of Trenton; b. 3 May, 1762; m. April, 1789, Rachel, dau. of Richard Smith and Hannah (Peak) Smith; d. 25 February, 1831. (Richard Smith was first cousin to Richard Smith, of Green Hill, and was a son of Dr. Richard Smith, of Bramham.) The second son of William and Rachel (Smith) Coxe was Richard Smith Coxe; b. 30 January, 1792; d. 28 April, 1865. He entered Princeton in 1805 (joining the Philosophic Society), and graduated in 1808; studied law with William Griffith, of Burlington, for three years; being too young to be admitted to the bar he removed to Philadelphia and continued his studies under Horace Binney, and in 1812, some weeks before he was 21, was licensed as an attorney of Pennsylvania. He m. 23 January, 1816, Susan Bradford, dau. of William and Abigail Griffith, and then returned to New Jersey, where he was licensed as an attorney and counsellor at the May Term, 1817. In 1822 he removed to Washington, which was thenceforth his home. He was admitted the U. S. Supreme Court, in that year, and for forty years was constantly engaged in cases of great importance. He was the compiler of Coxe's Reports, the first volume of the New Jersey Law Reports, having obtained the material, it was understood, from notes of cases preserved by Judge Griffith. He m. 2d Mrs. Susan R. Wheeler.

IX.

Elizabeth Town July 22 1806.

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 15th of the present month has been duly received, and I embrace the first moment of sufficient leisure to give it an answer.

The subject of your letter has been indeed a matter of considerable attention with me, and I have formed a strong opinion, that two sets of Stages, might be established between Philadelphia and New-York, by the way of Burlington and Elizabeth-Town Point, more convenient, at a less expence, and *generally*, with more expedition, according to the nature of the business of each set of Stages, respectively, than any now in use, the Mail line of Stages, excepted.

I say two Sets, or lines of Stages, that is, one line, for such articles of Merchandize, as are usually transported across land, between the two great cities, and for such passengers, as might prefer that line on account of the smallness of the expences—and the other for passengers and their usual baggage, exclusively.

My hopes of success in such an undertaking are founded on the following considerations

1. The rout now proposed, has considerable advantage, in point of distance over either of those now followed by South-Amboy or Lamington on the Delawar, and would be upon an equal footing in that respect, with the rout from Philadelphia thro Trenton by the way of Paulus hook.

2. Between 32 & 33 Miles of the proposed rout will be by water, to wit, from New-York to Elizabeth Town Point, 12½ miles and from Philada to Burlington 20 miles—this rout will, therefore, be as much more convenient and less expensive, as *Stage-Boats* properly constructed and arranged, have been found on experience, to have the advantage in these respects, over *Stage Waggons*.

3. *Stage-Boats*, properly constructed, exclusively, for passengers and articles of merchandize, such as are usually transported across land, between the two cities, if they should *always* take the *advantage of the currents*, would always, when there is wind go with more expedition than *Stage Waggons*, and as there is *generally* wind, it follows, that *as* generally the *Stage Boats*, would exceed the *Stage Waggons*, in point of expedition—When there is no wind, such stage-boats, by the use of oars, may go with the tide, nearly, if not quite as fast, as stage waggons, and even without more oars than may always be had without a lditional expence, *Stage Boats* might always go in one tide between Philadelphia & Burlington, & in much less time than a tide between New-York & Elizabeth-Town Point.

4. As the tides will not accomodate themselves to passengers, passengers may accomodate themselves to tides, and it so happens, that if a *Stage Boat*

shall leave either city, at Low Water, on any day, which is equally the best time of tide to start from each place, she will arrive at Elizabeth-Town Point and Burlington, respectively, so as to enable the Stage waggons to pass from either of those places to the other, and allow the passengers to sleep at a Stage house, and arrive by the time of high water on the day following—This time is the most suitable time of tide for the Stage Boats from Burlington to Philadelphia, and a very good time of tide for a Stage Boat from Elizabeth-Town Point to New-York.

In respect to the set of Stages for Merchandize &c if they drive all night, which may be readily done with Lamps, they will also arrive about the same time, and in season for the Stage boats on the day following.

The time of leaving each of the cities, therefore, every day, subject however to the exception mentioned in the Post-script, may be precisely at low water, which time is, so notorious and remarkable, that upon being so advertised, it will always be found with as great ease by the passengers, as if the particular hour of the day was mentioned.

There must at least be four Stage houses on the way, at one of which the passengers may sleep, according to the time of their leaving Philadelphia & New-York, that is to say, one at Elizabeth-Town, one at New-Brunswick, one somewhere near Doctor Clarks on the turnpike road from Brunswick to Burlington and one at Burlington. The distance of these stages one from the other will be nearly alike.

There must be, six four horse teams and two waggons, for each of the two lines of daily Stages, I mean the one which travels all night with merchandize &c and the other which stops & allows the passengers to sleep on the road—In each line of Stages, one team of horses must be stationed at Elizabeth-Town, two teams at New-Brunswick—two teams near Clarks, and one team at Burlington.

Each waggon should shift horses at Brunswick, and near Clarks but should pass the whole distance between Burlington & Elizabeth-Town Point, without shifting passengers or Baggage, or Merchandize.

It must be presumed that these lines must meet encouragement from the public, when it shall be known that articles of merchandize delivered on one day at Low water on board the Stage boat at either city will arrive at the other city, in the course of the following day, and that passengers & their usual baggage may be transported with equal expedition & greater convenience at about two thirds of the present rate of fare on the other route.

There should be, for the sake of *simplicity*, in the business, but two known or *immediately* responsible partners—the one at Elizabeth Town (say myself), and another at Burlington—who may respectively associate to themselves as many persons as they may choose—each of the responsible partners, should by himself or otherwise, establish & regulate, respectively, suitable Stage Boats, between Philadelphia & Burlington, and between New-York & Elizabeth-Town Point, and three teams of horses, each, for each of the two lines—that is, to say, two teams of horses each, respectively, to run

between Burlington & Clarks, and between Elizabeth-Town Point and New Brunswick, and one team each to supply the road between Clarks & New Brunswick.

Each of the responsible partners should be at the expence of repairing his own waggon, and feeding & keeping up his own horses, and be answerable that they perform their duty agreeably to the times to be mentioned in stipulations previously to be entered into.

The usual rate of fare, or a *limited one* should be established for the Stage Boats, respectively, and taken by their owners respectively in the first place, out of the whole amount of fare for the whole distance—the residue of the fare should be divided between the two partners, or what perhaps might be *easier*, each partner might receive *his* half from each passenger as he goes on, which might save the partners the necessity of any accounts as between themselves.

It will be necessary that the road between Doctor Clarks & Burlington by the way of the White horse should be somehow amended & kept in better repair—I am told that this [is] about to be done.

These my dear Sir, are rough materials, which by a closer attention & some experience, might be made to fit in and suit together, so as to answer the end intended—if Mr. Smith or any other suitable person in Burlington should think the matter worth further consideration, and will have the goodness to call & see me at my house, I will show him my stage boats and other accomodations for the ferry from hence to New-York. Communicate freely on the subject, and enter into arrangements predicated on the foregoing Ideas, altered and amended as may appear more proper, and if thought advisable, proceed at once to preparations, and set the whole machinery in motion as soon as it can be got ready.

From the representations you make in respect to Mr. Smith, it would seem, that he is altogether suitable for the partner at Burlington; but before you shew this to him, I must request, if it be not inconsistent, that you would lend it to Mr. McIlvaine for his perusal, as I have had some conversation with him on the subject—for if he has any idea himself of entering into such a connection, I feel myself bound from what has passed between us, not to do anything in the business, without his concurrence.

As to anything further, I am entirely willing to submit to your discretion the communications you may make, believing however that no good can result from communicating further, than may serve to promote & further the end in view.

After apologizing for this long, but, hastily, written letter, permit me to assure you, that I am with the truest respect

Yours most faithfully

AARON OGDEN.

Post-Script. I ought to have mentioned, that in the two worst possible cases that can happen, it appears to me that the undertaking can be accom-

plished without wind. The first is, when the low water happens so late in the day that the passengers from Philadelphia must stay that night at Burlington, at such times, the circumstances of the tides at Elizabeth-Town Point will admit of their being sent in to New York, on the next day, provided they arrive from Burlington at Elizabeth-Town Point by 3½ or 4 o'clock in the afternoon, which in my opinion may be easily done in like manner, if low water be so late in the day at New-York, that passengers cannot arrive at Burlington by high water the day following—at such times, the tides from New-York will admit the Stage boat to start so early in the day that the passengers may be sent to Burlington in season for the high water on the day following.

[Addressed:]

William Cox Esquire
Burlington.

*Post-paid.*¹

¹ The postage on this letter from Elizabeth to Burlington, as marked with pen and ink in the upper right hand corner, was twenty cents.

X.

New Jersey Sup: Court

William Cox Esqr.
adsm. Sur Ejectment, for Stipson¹ Island &c.
Sir Robert Barker & the Pemberton family

Recd. from above Deft. by the hand of General Joseph Bloomfield fifty dollars for a retaining fee in the above suit.—

Aaron Ogden
Counsel at Law
Eliz-Town

¹ Stipson (or Stuypsen) Island is in the western part of Dennis township, Cape May county, bordering on Delaware bay, between East and West creeks, which nearly or quite separate it from the mainland. Owing to the subsidence of the New Jersey coast, Stipson's island loses a rod of shore front every year or two.

XI.

Elizabeth Town October 23 1827.

The Reverend

Doctor John C. Rudd,¹

Reverend & Dear Sir.

This letter will be delivered by Miss Mary O. Hains, a daughter of Mr. Elias Hains, deceased, formerly of this place, with whom I believe you must have been intimately acquainted.

Miss Hains is a daughter of one of my neices,² now a widow, and I feel much interest in her welfare—She is of a most amiable disposition—well educated—with a characteristic perseverance in whatever she may undertake.

I understand that she proposes to take on herself the charge of a female academy at Auburn, in regard to the duties of which you have an entire knowledge—Now sir, should this be the case, you will confer on me a great favor, by such attentions and services to her, in this new situation, as may conveniently be within your power.

I am, dear & reverend Sir

your very sincere friend

& very respectfully

your most ob. servt.

AARON OGDEN.

[Addressed :]

The Reverend

Doctor John C. Rudd.

Auburn

N. Y.

Miss Mary O. Hains.

¹ The Rev John Churchill Rudd, D. D., Rector of St. John's church, Elizabethtown, 1806-26; retiring on account of ill health, he removed in July, 1826, to Auburn, N. Y., where he taught a classical school, as he had done for years at Elizabethtown; he died 15 November, 1848, at Utica, N. Y., and was buried in St. John's church-yard, at Elizabeth.

² Robert Ogden, brother of Col. Aaron Ogden, married Sarah, daughter of Dr. Zophar Platt, of Huntington, L. I.; their daughter Mary, niece of Col. Ogden, married Elias Haines, mentioned above, and had this daughter, Mary Ogden Haines. While at Auouren, Miss Haines married Henry Thompson Darragh; their only daughter, Elizabeth, married Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Parsons, of St. Louis, and died without issue. Mrs. Darragh was a very lovely woman, in person and in character.

XII.

Jersey City, 10 May 1830.

My dear Sir

This letter will be delivered by my particular friend A. Ogden Dayton¹ Esquire of the city of New-York who you will find very intelligent and frank—but he is not of the same political party with yourself

As Mr Dayton is paying a visit to the city of Washington for a few days, I avail myself of the opportunity of thus introducing him to you, and have to beg, that you will have the goodness to communicate to him, the situation of the bill in regard to the exemption of the officers and soldiers who are entitled to the benefit of the late act for the relief of certain surviving officers and soldiers of the late revolutionary army—he is fully acquainted with the whole subject and will communicate any information, which you will have the goodness to give him.

I have the honor to be
with the highest respect
your obliged friend &
servant

AARON OGDEN.

The honorable
Tristram Burgess,²

¹ Aaron Ogden Dayton was the son of Elias Bayley Dayton (son of Gen. Elias Dayton) and Elizabeth Catharine Chandler (b. 22 July, 1764, dau. of the Rev. Dr. Thomas Bradbury Chandler; m. 19 January, 1786; d. 6 November, 1806). He was born at Elizabethtown, 4 October, 1796; entered the Junior Class in Princeton College in 1811, and graduated in 1813; studied law with Gov. Aaron Ogden, after whom he had been named, and was licensed as an Attorney 13 November, 1817. In 1818 he journeyed to Ohio on horseback, and was licensed as an Attorney and Counsellor in that State. Returning to New Jersey, he began the practice of his profession at Salem. In 1823 he was elected to the Legislature. In 1824 he took a very active part in the canvass for the election of Andrew Jackson to the Presidency. In 1825 he removed to Jersey City, and in 1826 to New York city, being admitted as a Counsellor in that State, and in 1828 was elected to the New York Legislature. In 1833 he was appointed to an office in the Department of State, at Washington, and in 1836 became Chief Clerk of the Department; in 1838 he was appointed Fourth Auditor of the Treasury Department, where it was his duty to receive and adjust all accounts for the service of the Navy Department. He died suddenly, 30 September, 1838. He had married in August, 1837, Mary B. Tuft, of Salem.

² Tristram Burges was a member of Congress from Rhode Island, 1825-35; a prominent Federalist and afterwards a Whig.

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